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Traffic study could result in faster bus trips between Bayonne, Jersey City

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By Charles Hack/The Jersey Journal

A quicker bus ride between Bayonne and Jersey City. A mass transit system for Liberty State Park. And a bike lane along the Morris Canal between the Hackensack and Hudson rivers.

The federal government has allocated grants to pay for studies into all three possibilities, a regional transportation group recently announced.

According to officials of the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, the federal grants totaling \$690,000 will cover 80 percent of the cost of the three two-year studies.

"Hudson County residents live in the most densely populated county in the state and we need to give them new ways to travel without adding to traffic congestion," Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise, the NJTPA's second vice chairman, said in a statement.

One study will look into whether it is cost effective to provide a new mass transit system for the interior of the 1,212-acre Liberty State Park, which has 6 million visitors a year.

Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy, also a NJTPA board member, said the study will help create "more effective access to the park."

A second study will look into creating a new bike lane and walkway along the 6-mile route of the former Morris Canal between the Hudson and Hackensack rivers.

A third study would assess the cost and benefit of new traffic signal prioritization technology and other options to make the bus ride between Bayonne, Greenville and Journal Square in Jersey City faster and more predictable for passengers.

The study will also look at options, such as ticket kiosks on the bus route and special buses, to speed up boarding times, officials said.

The projects involve the planning departments of Hudson County, Jersey City and Bayonne.

The two studies for Jersey City would cost \$220,000 each and the study for the bus service between Bayonne and Jersey City would cost \$250,000, officials said.